Protection of Farmers Against Intermediaries

†1961. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large-scale bungling is being committed in purchase of all agricultural produce at the purchase centres;

(b) if so, whether Government would formulate any concrete policy/scheme to purchase farmers produce at proper rates and to save them from brokers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that produce of only powerful and influential farmers is purchased; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to protect interest of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir no such report has been received. Wheat and paddy are purchased by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State Government Agencies at the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) announced by the Government. Whenever any complaint of distress sale of farmers produce is received by the Government, the same is promptly brought to the notice of the FCI and the concerned State Governments/UTs Administration for urgent corrective action.

(c) As per the present procurement policy, all the foodgrains conforming to Fair Average Quality specifications offered for sale by the farmers at specified centers are bought by the public procuring agencies at MSP without any discrimination.

(d) Before the commencement of each Marketing Season, consultations are held with the concerned State Governments and FCI officials with a view to ensure smooth procurement of foodgrains. Besides, in order to avoid distress sale by the farmers of their produce, the following steps are taken:—

1. Opening of adequate number of purchase centers in different States, in consultation with the State Governments.

2 Making quick payment to the farmers for their produce.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

3. Timely procurement of gunnies.

4. Adequate publicity about the procurement prices, Fair Average Quality specifications and purchase centers.

5. Timely deployment of staff in Mandis.

6. In order to closely monitor the MSP scheme, special Control Rooms are set up in the FCI at their Headquarters as well as regional officers to collect and compile daily procurement figures from the State Governments and other procuring agencies. These Control Rooms work on 24 hours basis during the peak procurement season. The State Governments are also requested to set up Control Rooms for the purpose.

Movement and Storage of Agriculture Products

†1962. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to lift control on the movement and storage of agricultural produce within the country and remove curbs on quota and registration of farm produce;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard and the mechanism to overcome scarcity of foodgrains;

(c) whether Government have also decided to remove some items from the list of Essential Commodities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) since when this orders would be operational; and

(f) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure that benefit in pricing goes to the farmers?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.